Earnest Money Deposit

265. Sri B. P. GANGADHAR (Tumkur).—

Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the E.M.D. and 5 per cent reserve held in the work (P.W.D.) Bills of contractors are not being paid as soon as the final claims by the P.W.D. Contractors is preferred;

(*b*) whether it is right to hold return of Earnest Money Deposit and 5 per cent reserve unnecessarily to contractors for reasons like want of sanction to R.E. or extra item rate lists, or modified estimates;

(*c*) whether it is not for the departmental authorities to obtain sanction to the deviations or modifications;

(*d*) whether Government intend to direct the departmental authorities to pay the E.M.D. and Reserve as soon as works are executed and finalised by the Contractors?

Sri K. LAKKAPPA (Minister for Public Works).—

(*a*) Earnest Money Deposit is released either after the expiry of 3 months from the date of the final bill is actually paid or after the expiry of the date up to which the contractor has agreed to maintain the work in good orders whichever is later. 5 per cent Reserve (F.S.D.) is released against the Bank Guarantee after the work is completed satisfactorily.

(*b*) *vide* reply to (*a*) above.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) *vide* reply to (*a*) above.

Construction of Bridge Across Kabini

282. Sri D. M. SIDDAIAH (Biligere).—

Will the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the cost of the estimate for a bridge across Kabini near Suttur in Nanjangud Taluk and when the work is supposed to be undertaken ;

(*b*) whether the construction of such a bridge across Kabini near Suttur will help to link up two Hoblies-Biligere and Chatan and thus facilitate the general public to have convenience for transport and easy way for their movement ;

(*c*) will the Government find resources and complete the work as early as possible ?